

[27 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

infrastructure including construction of tourist complex, way-side amenities, Yatri Niwas, etc. During the year 1999-2000, 415 projects amounting to Rs. 94.60 crores including projects relating to development of tourism infrastructure have been sanctioned to various State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Some of the steps for the growth of tourism indicated in the revised draft of new tourism policy which has been put in the official portal of the Department of Tourism, Government of India, include facilitation of larger flow of funds to tourism infrastructure, etc.

Recognition to Bagurumba and Dances of Assam

669. DR. (MRS.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps has been taken by Government to recognise nationally the age old and popular Bagurumba dance and Bargeet of Assam which is practised by the people from time immemorial; and

(b) if so, by when and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sangeet Natak Akademi has informed that they have not formally adopted any policy for granting recognition to art forms in the country.

Allocation of Funds to Rajasthan

†670. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by this Ministry to the State Government of Rajasthan as a grant during the financial years of 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 alongwith details of items, programme or project and for any special head under which the same has been given; and

(b) whether the State Government of Rajasthan has timely provided the expenditure account to the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The details of financial assistance

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

provided by Department of Tourism, Government of India to Rajasthan Government for tourism infrastructure projects are given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Year	No. of projects	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1999-2000	12	131.22	36.59
2000-2001 (till 31.1.2001)	12	361.27	108.90

(b) Utilisation Certificates for 1st instalments released in respect of these projects are awaited from the State Government.

Decline in Inflow of Foreign Tourists

671. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arrival of foreign tourists decreased during the current financial year;

(b) if so, to what extent than the previous three years;

(c) the sector-wise position in the country and the reasons why the arrival of foreign tourists decreased in these sectors; and

(d) what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There has been increase in foreign tourists arrivals in the year 2000 as compared to the previous three years. The foreign tourist arrivals during the years 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 are 2.37 million, 2.36 million, 2.48 million and 2.64 million respectively.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.